

THE COMMONWEALTH GROWS

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Agricultural Development Board Investment Philosophy

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board will invest monies from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund in innovative proposals that increase net farm income and affect tobacco farmers, tobacco-impacted communities, and agriculture across the state through stimulating markets for Kentucky agricultural products, finding new ways to add value to Kentucky agricultural products, and exploring new opportunities for Kentucky farms and farm products.

CONFERENCE ENCOURAGES AND CELEBRATES AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

BY EDITOR PENNY R CLINE

The Kentucky Opportunity Marketplace is a conference by the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board along with the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture at the Civic Center in Frankfort. The 29th and 30th of January will celebrate and encourage agricultural entrepreneurship in the Commonwealth through exhibitions by projects that have been funded by the Agricultural Development Board, exhibitions by agricultural organizations and commodity groups, and educational tracks covering the areas of business plan development, business structure, capital access, and creation of a marketing plan.

The goal of the conference is twofold. First and most important, the conference will educate farmers and potential agricultural entrepreneurs in those areas most critical to the creation of a project. Kentucky is in the midst of an intense push toward agricultural development and diversification. This conference serves to not only inspire those who are involved in that process but also to assist in the technical education that will serve as the foundation of the agricultural development process. Second, the conference will raise awareness among the general public about the importance of agricultural development in Kentucky, the success that has already been seen through various projects currently underway, and the importance of their involvement in this undertaking. Agricultural



development requires not only farmer participation but also the willingness of Kentucky citizens to support farmers in their endeavors. This conference seeks to foster the involvement and cooperation of both groups.

The three educational tracks are: Opportunities in Livestock Production, Opportunities in Horticultural Production, and New and Emerging Opportunities in Kentucky agriculture. Each of these areas will cover capital access, business plan development, marketing plan development, and business structure with information specific to the opportunity area.

The conference will wrap up with a luncheon in which Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman has been invited to speak.

For more information concerning Kentucky Opportunity Marketplace, please call Sandy Gardner or Penny Cline at the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (502) 564-4627.

CALENDAR OF AGRICULTURAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Agricultural Development Board Meeting

Friday November 30, 2001 at 10:00 am

Health Services Building Second Floor Boardroom, 275 East Main Street in Frankfort

Please call (502) 564-4627 for directions.

*Future meetings will be on the third Friday of every month in the Brown-Forman Room of the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort.

Feedback Forums for Agricultural Development Long-Term Plan— London, Hopkinsville, Lexington, Louisville, Maysville, and Elizabethtown (See Page 2)

Meet Agricultural Development Board Member Larry Clay



Cattle is one thing that Agricultural Development Board Member Larry Clay knows about. His experience with livestock dates back much further than his appointment to the board or his membership in The Kentucky Cattlemen's Association. Growing up in western Texas, Larry worked with cattle alongside his father on ranches and farms. He moved to eastern Kentucky to work with cattle in 1992 and is currently involved in replacement heifers, raising feeder calves, and raising horses on reclaimed surface mining land. Larry has been not only learning about raising cattle in a completely different environment, he has been looking for ways to improve how cattle are raised.

Larry has had the opportunity as an Agricultural Development Board Member to provide information and advice for the improvement of cattle production within the Commonwealth. Larry feels that Kentucky did not always have the best reputation for its cattle, especially among feed lot states who were concerned about the health of the animals from Kentucky. Speaking about the Agricultural Development Fund, he

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: FFA AND 4-H

The youth of Kentucky are the future of agriculture. That is why two youth programs received four million dollars from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board to establish an endowment. Kentucky is working to maintain its strong agricultural heritage through encouraging youth to become involved in agricultural pursuits and carry that experience with them into adulthood.

FFA, formerly Future Farmers of America, works through the Department of Education and encourages high school students to pursue agricultural training in school that prepares them for a career in agriculture and potentially in post-secondary education. Charity Williams, Executive Director of the Kentucky FFA Foundation, Inc. says "The whole program is really about hands on preparation for students." They are taught business practices such as managing money and keeping records along with technical information about agriculture. The funds will be used to strengthen these programs and keep the annual national convention in Louisville, an event that brings \$20 million into Ken-

tucky's economy.

Youth age nine through 19 have the opportunity to be involved in 4-H, an organization that celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2002. The four tenets of 'Head, Heart, Hands, and Health' make up the core of every experience. 4-H is not only a program that fosters youth participation in agriculture, it also encourages youth participation as citizens of their local communities. And adult volunteers serve as both role models and educators for the program, often learning about new aspects of agriculture through teaching. The program is designed to have a role in the entire community.

Martha Welch, Extension Associate, also sees 4-H as having a role in the current diversification of Kentucky agriculture and transition away from tobacco. She believes that the changes in Kentucky agriculture are, "a family issue, not just a producer issue." Bill Umscheid, Assistant Director of Extension for 4-H Youth Development, says, "A

lot of these kids want to stay in farming." Their goal is to utilize 4-H programs in a manner that encourages the youth to be educated and have the necessary experience to succeed in their future agricultural endeavors.

The FFA and 4-H endowments allow each program a perpetual funding source that will serve youth in Kentucky today and into the future.



FEEDBACK FORUMS FOR THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT LONG-TERM

Everyone is welcome to be involved in the completion of the long-term plan for agricultural development. All meetings will be 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the specified location.

November 26 in London- Cumberland Valley ADD Office
342 Old Whitley Road

November 27 in Hopkinsville- Hopkinsville Elevator Cooperative
1040 Skyline Drive

November 28 in Lexington- Gorham Hall of E.S. Good Barn
UK College of Agriculture on Farm Road

December 10 in Louisville- KIPTA ADD Office
11520 Commonwealth Drive

December 11 in Maysville- Maysville Community College Small Auditorium

December 12 in Elizabethtown- Elizabethtown Community College Community Room

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTION AND ANSWER



Question: What happens to county council membership since the statute states that all terms expire on June 30, 2002?

Answer: According to Kentucky Revised Statute 248.721, eight county agricultural development council members will be appointed to two-year terms expiring June 30, 2002. Existing council members are eligible for reappointment.

The process requires that two farmers will be selected by the Farm Service Agency county committee. Two members will be selected by the boards of the soil conservation

districts serving the county. And two members (one with experience in agricultural diversification) will be selected by the county extension council. These six members will then select two young farmers, between the ages of 21 and 40.

The three entities charged with appointing county development council members should begin the selection process now in order to assure those six members are in place by July 1, 2002. The young farmers would be selected by the new committee membership after July 1.

For more information on county council membership, please contact the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy.

Meet Larry Clay Continued

says, "This is the best opportunity I've seen since I've been in Kentucky to encourage people to improve their calves." With the 800,000 feeder calves around the state, he knows, "A lot of tobacco producers have some cattle." He hopes that profits gained from cattle improvement, "will help make up some of that lost income."

Larry supports the county cost-share programs for forage, cattle genetics, and cattle handling as first steps toward increasing the income of livestock producers. The cattle handling programs assist producers in paying for such equipment as a head gate to hold cattle for the administration of medicine and health checks. And the forage improvement program that Larry says, "can help tremendously," assists with the quality of feed for cattle.

The ultimate goal of cattle improvement is to produce cattle that are healthy, safe, and recognized as such. He says, "We've got to keep the consumer confident in our product." Looking into the future of Kentucky cattle production, he says, "I think they'll be a big segment of Kentucky cattle that will be identified." Larry hopes that farmers will continue to work towards improving their cattle and establish Kentucky's reputation as a state with quality animals.

PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING AT THE NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

Friends of Kentucky 4-H Inc.- \$2,000,000 (State) will create an endowment to support the training and development that leads to innovative agricultural enterprises and support local programs

Kentucky FFA Foundation Inc.- \$2,000,000 (State) will establish a trust fund to keep the national convention in Louisville as well as to support the Kentucky FFA Chapter with local programs

Christian County Grain Inc.- \$345,000 (State, Christian and Todd County) will construct a corn cleaning and processing plant to increase area specialty corn production

Appalachian Sweet Sorghum Marketing Association- \$120,000 (State, Menifee and Montgomery County) will expand into unfilled markets, create bar code labeling, and increase number of participating growers

Shelby County A&M Association- \$246,000 will construct a facility to market, house, and exhibit livestock

Eastern Kentucky Goat Producers Association- \$6,165 (Owsley) will purchase shared-use equipment and provide education and outreach

Harrison County Conservation District- \$2,800 will purchase a tree planter to help farmers in reforestation efforts

Campbell County Cattle Association- \$7,400 will purchase ultra sound equipment

Woodburn-Richmond 4-H Club- \$5,200 (Warren) will promote opportunities in agriculture

Rex Cook- \$10,779 (Caldwell) will purchase a steamer

Franklin-Simpson Vocational Agriculture Department- \$50,000 (Simpson) will construct a hydroponics alternative crops system with an educational aquaculture component

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INTERVIEW WITH GARRARD COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER LINDA CRACE

At the Women In Agriculture Conference held in Owensboro, Linda Crace spoke not only of her experience as an agricultural producer and a Phase I County Council Member, but also as a woman. Her deep rooted love for agriculture was formed through her father who was a tenant farmer. When she was young, Linda helped with hay, tobacco, and other farm ventures. She left the farm to work in a brokerage firm for 12 years, returning with her husband when they leased a small farm operation in Lexington. Today, she has a feeder calf program and purebred Angus in Garrard County. Linda admits, "I love working with cattle, that is my passion."

Using her knowledge of agriculture and her ability to provide a unique perspective as a woman, Linda is involved in organizations that work toward improving agriculture. She was president of her local 4-H Council and on the Extension District Council. Today she is a Phase I County Council Member and a former chairperson and charter member of the Garrard County Fair Board. Linda



was recently awarded the title "Garrard County Outstanding Farmer of the Year."

Her commitment to agriculture causes her to look for ways to improve agriculture in her county. Linda hopes that more technical education would be available for all agricultural producers in her area.

She thinks that this type of education is an important first step. To improve livestock specifically, she believes that, "If the forages are managed right along with the cattle, you could see a large improvement in the cattle." With the county council, she is involved in encouraging that type of forage improvement through the county cost-share program.

Linda also looks to people in her county for ways to encourage agricultural development. She thinks that the involvement of women in agriculture is important because, "They are the backbone of the family farm." She says, "The women of Garrard County coming together to unite the county, that's what we want. We want to unite the county and help the county grow."